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Letter dated 13 August 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you of the work of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), whose current mandate expires on 30 August 2012. Since its official inauguration in March 2011 and the assumption of Office by my Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Mr. Abou Moussa, in June 2011, UNOCA has been assisting my efforts to further advance the cause of peace and security in the Central African subregion. UNOCA has been closely monitoring developments and has provided briefings and periodic reports to the Security Council.

The Security Council, in its presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/21) of 14 November 2011, requested me to coordinate and develop, through UNOCA, a regional strategy to address the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), in close collaboration with national, regional and international partners. In addition, in its presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/18) of 29 June 2012, the Security Council endorsed the regional strategy and urged UNOCA to support its implementation. Further, in its resolution 2039 (2012), the Security Council requested me to support, through UNOCA and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), States and subregional organizations in convening a joint Summit of Gulf of Guinea States to develop a regional anti-piracy strategy.

With the extension of its mandate, UNOCA, in addition to its work on the Lord's Resistance Army and on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, will continue, inter alia, to carry out the following tasks:

(a) Cooperate with the Economic Community of Central African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and other key partners and assisting them, as appropriate, in their promotion of peace and stability in the broader Central African subregion;

(b) Carry out good offices roles and special assignments in countries of the subregion, on behalf of the Secretary-General, including in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts;

(c) Strengthen the capacity of the Department of Political Affairs to advise the Secretary-General on matters relating to peace and security in the subregion;

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(d) Enhance linkages in the work of the United Nations and other partners in the subregion, with a view to promoting an integrated subregional approach and facilitating coordination and information exchange, with due regard to specific mandates of United Nations organizations as well as peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding support offices;

(e) Report to Headquarters on developments of subregional significance.

I therefore recommend a further extension of the mandate of the Office for 18 months.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon